Review of Panchayati Raj Institutions

2263. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the Panchayati Raj Institution since it came into existence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts taken to improve its working; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Prior to the setting up of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Rural Development was the nodal Ministry for Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Ministry of Rural Development used to review the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions through periodic Meetings, Conferences and Seminars etc. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was set up on 27 May 2004.

After the Ministry was set up,a Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on "Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj" was organised at New Delhi on 29-30 June, 2004, jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. Issues relating to effective implementation of Part IX and IX A of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj were tabled as agenda for discussions by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. These issues included effective devolution of functions, finances, functionaries, planning, Gram Sabhas, women, reservation for SCs/STs, special problems of SCs/STs, elections, audit parallel bodies, capacity building and training, and state of the Panchayat Report and jurisprudence. The Conference decided to hold seven Round Table Conferences to formulate a draft action plan towards achieving the objective of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government for the planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution. Between July-December, 2004 Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table

Meetings with the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved by consensus a set of around 150 points for action which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur. The Ministry has now initiated a process of visiting each of the State/UT to review with the authorities concerned the progress in implementing the points for action contained in the compendium. It is expected that this will accelerate the pace of implementation of the provisions of Part IX read with Article 243ZD of the Constitution and bring about greater conformity in both letter and spirit, to the Constitutional provisions of Panchayati Raj in all States/UTs concerned.

Kerosene quota to States

†2264. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quota for kerosene oil to all the States is determined by Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have recently curtailed the said quota of several States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the States, whose quota has been curtailed have requested the Central Government to increase the same; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government allocates Kerosene (SKO) to the States and Union Territories (UTs) for distribution under the Public Distribution system (PDS). The State/UT-wise details of allocation for the year 2004-05 are at in the Statement *(see* below,).

(c) and (d) As per the policy in place since 2001-02, SKO allocation of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.